



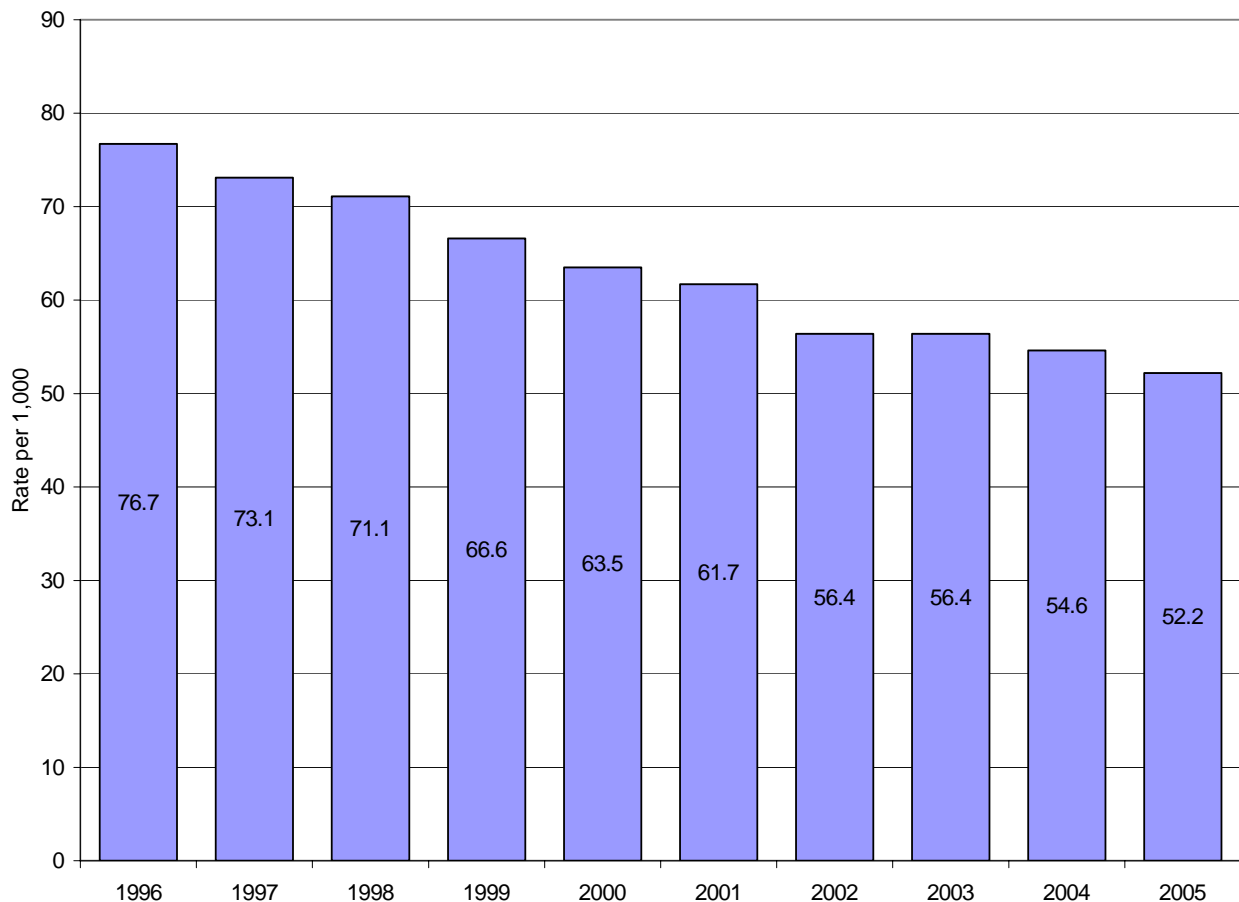
Topic: Maternal Health

23. Teen Pregnancy

The teen pregnancy rate is an estimate of the proportion of women aged 15-19 who had a live birth, induced abortion, or miscarriage during a given year. Teen mothers are more likely than adult mothers to have dropped out of high school, be unemployed, and lack parenting skills. In addition to increased lifetime risks of social and economic disadvantage to both the teens and their children, there are additional health risks for infants born to teen-aged mothers. These increased risks include low birth weight, pre-term delivery, fetal distress, and other adverse outcomes.

How are we doing?

**Michigan Teenage Pregnancy Rate
Age 15-19, 1996-2005**



In 2005, there were an estimated 18,997 pregnancies among Michigan teenagers, or a rate of 52.2 per 1,000 females, ages 15-19 years old. The teen pregnancy rate in Michigan has declined by over 32% since 1996, translating into more than 8,900 fewer teen pregnancies in 2005. Estimates from the 2003 Michigan Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) survey indicate that about 86.7% of births to teens were unintended.



How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

In 2002, the most recent year for which national figures are available, the Michigan teen pregnancy rate of 56.4 per 1,000 was lower than the U.S. rate of 75.4 per 1,000.

How are different populations affected?

In Michigan, pregnancy rates for ages 15-17 are lower than for those ages 18-19 and both rates have declined in recent years. Pregnancy rates for ages 15-17 decreased from 56.5 per 1,000 in 1992 to 27.8 per 1,000 in 2005. For those aged 18-19, pregnancy rates have decreased from 148.3 per 1,000 in 1992 to 91.0 per 1,000 in 2005.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to improve this indicator?

The MDCH works to prevent teen pregnancies through family planning services and efforts of the Michigan Abstinence Partnership (MAP), Child and Adolescent Health Centers, and the Talk Early & Talk Often Initiative.

Family planning providers offer contraceptives and reproductive health services to encourage fertility control. The educational and counseling components of the programs help to reduce health risks and promote healthy behaviors. Services include encouraging abstinence and parental involvement as appropriate for sexually active teens. The Family Planning program maintains a teen advisory group on the provision of teen-friendly services. One-third of the populations served by the Family Planning program are teens.

The Michigan Abstinence Partnership (MAP) aims to positively impact adolescent health problems by promoting abstinence from sexual activity and related risky behaviors such as the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. A comprehensive approach targets 9-17 year old youth (up to 21 years of age for special education populations), and their parents. Community coalitions plan, implement and evaluate community awareness activities to create a community environment supportive of an abstinent lifestyle for teens. Education targeted at parents encourages them to talk openly with their children about sexuality and the benefits of abstinence.

A parent education program entitled Talk Early & Talk Often is a grassroots effort to give parents of middle school students the tools they need to talk to their children about the important issue of sexuality. Talk Early & Talk Often town hall meetings and training sessions in local school districts have been held across the state to help parents increase their comfort level in talking with their children about this important topic.